

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this divisional application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-43. (Canceled).

Claim 44. (Previously presented) A reticle used for determining inter-field overlay error of a stage on a projection imaging tool, the reticle comprising:

- a first set of alignment attributes disposed along a first column;
- a second set of alignment attributes that are complementary to the first set of alignment attributes, the second set of alignment attributes disposed along a second column distinct from the first column, wherein the alignment attributes in the first and second sets are aligned in corresponding rows;

- a third set of alignment attributes distributed along a first row between the first and second column; and

- a fourth set of attributes complementary to the third set of attributes, the fourth set of alignment attributes disposed in a second row distinct from the first row, wherein the alignments attributes in the third and fourth sets are aligned in corresponding columns, wherein the second and fourth alignment attributes are complementary to the first and third alignment attributes, respectively, in that an exposure of the second and fourth alignment attributes interlock with a previous exposure of the first and third alignment attributes after the reticle has been shifted in a desired direction.

Claim 45. (Original) A reticle as defined in Claim 44, wherein the reticle has reduced transmission.

Claim 46. (Original) A reticle as defined in Claim 45, further comprising a partially reflecting dielectric coating.

Claim 47. (Original) A reticle as defined in Claim 45, further comprising an attenuated phase shift mask.

Claims 48-49. (Canceled).

Claim 50. (Previously presented) An apparatus for determining inter-field overlay error of a stage on a reticle projection imaging tool, the apparatus comprising:

means for producing a first set of alignment attributes disposed along a first column;

means for producing a second set of alignment attributes that are complementary to the first set of alignment attributes, the second set of alignment attributes disposed along a second column distinct from the first column, wherein the alignment attributes in the first and second sets are aligned in corresponding rows;

means for producing a third set of alignment attributes distributed along a first row between the first and second column; and

means for producing a fourth set of attributes complementary to the third set of attributes, the fourth set of alignment attributes disposed in a second row distinct from the first row, wherein the alignment attributes in the third and fourth sets are aligned in corresponding columns, wherein the

second and fourth alignment attributes are complementary to the first and third alignment attributes, respectively, in that an exposure of the second and fourth alignment attributes interlock with a previous exposure of the first and third alignment attributes after the reticle has been shifted in a desired direction.